

House Bill 536  
March 15, 2011  
Presented by Dave Risley  
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Dave Risley, Fish and Wildlife Administrator for Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in support of House Bill 536.

You've heard how this law originally came into being. We have registered 89 grizzly bears in Montana since 1972. Additionally, we have formally refused registration of about 20 bears for lack of documentation.

We believe this bill could benefit those who currently hold lawfully taken bears and who have documentation as to their legal harvest.

Federal endangered species laws still affect trade in grizzly bears, even with registered bears. The interstate sale of grizzly bear heads, hides, mounts or other parts taken from grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 state remains illegal and prohibited by federal law. We believe the amendment to this bill is an important benefit for clarity and, perhaps more than anything, help keep honest sportspeople out of trouble. Thank you.